



MONMOUTH COUNTY

Local Preliminary Engineering Phase for Monmouth County Bridge S-32 on Rumson Road (CR520) over the Shrewsbury River Borough of Rumson and Borough of Sea Bright

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER SUMMARY MEETING REPORT

DATE: Wednesday, June 8, 2016
TIME: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Brief Presentation 2:30 p.m.)
LOCATION: Borough of Sea Bright Municipal Building
1164 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, NJ
ATTENDEES: Sign-In Sheets (*available upon request*)

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of the Public Information Center meeting was to inform the public of the work performed since the completion of the Local Concept Development Phase for this bridge replacement project including refinements to the approach roadways and intersections, and to solicit public input and comment on the Preliminary Engineering Phase project refinements.

MEETING SUMMARY

1. A total of 39 individuals are indicated on the Sign-In Sheets and an estimate 6 to 8 additional individuals attended who chose not to sign in. Due to number of attendees, the meeting was relocated from the council room to the gymnasium/municipal office area. A total of 15 project team members were in attendance to present project information and assist with questions from the public.
2. The meeting was designed as an open house format with display boards providing bridge preliminary engineering plans and approach roadway intersection improvements. The project team members were available to answer questions. A Project Information Handout and PIC Comment Form were distributed to the general public upon sign-in to the meeting. The PIC Comment Form could be completed and handed in at the meeting or could be faxed, emailed or mailed to Monmouth County (*Project Information Handout and blank PIC Comment Form attached*).
3. Once the meeting was relocated to the larger area, hard copies of the Presentation were distributed to attendees. Martine Culbertson, Community Involvement Facilitator began the presentation welcoming everyone on behalf of Monmouth County, and the cooperating agencies of North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority and the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

4. After introductions by the Project Team members, Joe Ettore, Monmouth County Engineer, provided information on the existing Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge S-32, which was built in the early 1950s and is nearing the end of its life. Due to the age, the maintenance and repairs are escalating and based upon the results of the Local Concept Development Study, the Preliminary Preferred Alternative to replace the bridge has been advanced to the Preliminary Engineering phase.
5. Bruce Riegel, Hardesty & Hanover (H&H) Project Manager, provided information on the LCD Study and the engineering and environmental work effort required during the Local Preliminary Engineering phase to determine the footprint of the new bridge and associated improvements at the approach roadway intersections, including environmental constraints and cultural resource studies.
 - (a) Numerous local officials and community stakeholders meetings were conducted during this phase to obtain community input on proposed bridge and intersection improvements.
 - (b) A review of the Preliminary Preferred Alternative was presented noting that specific refinements are proposed at Ward Avenue and Rumson Road in Rumson and also at the bridge and Ocean Avenue in Sea Bright.
 - (c) The Power Point PIC Meeting Presentation is posted to the Monmouth County Website: www.visitmonmouth.com, select the right margin box titled County Bridge & Road Projects, and select Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge from the list.
6. Brian Medino, Hardesty & Hanover (H&H) Roadway Engineer, provided information on two potential options at Ward Avenue and Rumson Road in Rumson for vehicles entering and exiting the West Park neighborhood area from Rumson Road. Attendees were encouraged to provide input on the pros and cons of either option. Also the proposed roadway improvements along Ocean Avenue for access were presented. Renderings were shown on display boards and on the Power Point presentation.
7. Matt Witkowski, Hardesty & Hanover (H&H) Traffic Engineer, provided information on the proposed traffic signal operation given the shift in Sea Bright to the south of the existing location with the new bridge alignment. There will be sidewalks with pedestrian timing and improved flow than what exists today with the new proposed 4 way signal. A rendering of the intersection was shown on a display board and on the Power Point presentation.
8. Bill Romaine, Amy Greene Consultants Environmental Project Manager, provided information on the environmental constraints, the environmental documentation and potential regulatory permits required. The Federal NEPA process is to avoid, minimize or mitigate any environmental impacts in the design and construction of the bridge replacement. A Categorical Exclusion Document (CED) was determined to be the appropriate NEPA documentation at the end of the LCD Study, which will document efforts to avoid, minimize or mitigate any identified impacts. Applications for regulatory permits will begin in the next phase.
9. Paul McEachen, RGA, Inc. Cultural Resources Specialist, provided information on the cultural resource studies conducted for Phase II Archeology, given the findings from the early Phase I Archeology that revealed the need for further investigation within West Park. Metal detectors were used to search for artifacts, but no significant items were found. Two native American sites were discovered and materials from the John Neesor homestead were

recovered, who resided in this area dating to 1889/1890. Also, no materials were found of the American Patriot taken captive who escaped from a boat on the Shrewsbury River in this area.

10. Bruce Riegel, Hardesty & Hanover (H&H) Project Manager, concluded the presentation with the project schedule and where to obtain and provide comments at the Monmouth County website.
 - (a) The Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) Phase is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2017. Final Design Phase and Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisitions are anticipated Spring 2017 - Fall 2019 and Construction is estimated from Winter 2020 - Spring 2023.
(Please see Additional Notes at end of report for Project Schedule Update)
 - (b) To access Monmouth County Website: www.visitmonmouth.com, select the right margin box titled County Bridge & Road Projects, and select Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge (S-32)
 - (c) Written comments will be received until Friday, July 8, 2016 as part of the public outreach documentation for the project. Comments can be submitted on the PIC Comment Form or in a letter or email to the attention of the County project manager, Inkyung Englehart (engineer@co.monmouth.nj.us).
11. In summary of the presentation, Joe Ettore, Monmouth County Engineer, thanked everyone for their attendance and explained to maximize exchange of information, any questions attendees have could be answered at each of the display board areas in the room by the Project Team members.
12. During the open house format of the PIC meeting, the following verbal comments were provided at the display boards during information exchange with project team members:
 - *Comment #1:* Operators Towers, will they remain the same or be different?
Response #1: During the Final Design phase, the design and appearance of the towers will be developed in part based on the type of vertical lift mechanism to be determined.
 - *Comment #2:* Would like the design of the bridge to keep clear railings so one can see boats.
Response #2: Open railing is most likely to be part of the design, given wind and visibility; the type of railing to be determined during Final Design phase and must meet current design safety standards (crash proof).
 - *Comment #3:* What will the new bridge look like?
Response #3: The existing bridge was built in 1950 which infers historic eligibility. During the Final Design phase, the design and appearance of the bridge including the towers, railing, lighting and any signage will be developed in coordination with community and agency input by the NJDEP State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and concurrence by the cooperating regulatory agencies.
13. A total of three (3) completed PIC Comment Forms were received at the public meeting in Sea Bright held at the Sea Bright Borough Hall. The PIC Meeting closed at 4:00 pm.

Additional Notes:

14. During the open comment period through Friday, July 8, 2016, a total of 41 individuals submitted written comments on PIC Comment Forms and via emails sent to the County. A file of all the PIC Comments received is posted as a separate file (BRS32-LPE-PICCommentsRecd-8Jun2016.pdf) on the County web site for the Rumson-Sea Bright Bridge S-32 project (<https://co.monmouth.nj.us>, click right margin box: County Bridge & Road Projects). In addition, a file of PIC Comments Received Summary with Responses is also provided on the County web site (BRS32-LPE-PICCommentsSummary-8Jun2016.pdf)
15. Project Schedule Update since presented at the Public Meeting in June (Item 10a): The Local Preliminary Engineering (LPE) Phase is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2017. The Local Final Design (LFD) and the Right-of-Way Acquisitions (ROW) Phases will commence once LPE phase is completed.

We believe the foregoing to be an accurate summary of discussions and related decisions. We would appreciate notification of exceptions or corrections to the summary within three (3) working days of receipt. Without notification, it will be considered to be record of fact.

Bridge S-32 LPE Project Team